Industry Profiles 2017

Retail Trade Industry

Alberta Government

OVERVIEW

The Retail Trade industry[1] in Alberta includes two types of retailers:

- stores that attract walk-in customers for products and related services; and
- non-store retailers who reach customers and market merchandise via other methods (i.e. infomercials, direct-response advertising, traditional and electronic catalogues, in-home demonstrations and vending machines).

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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major groups 44 and 45

SECTION A
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

1. 2016 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Retail Trade Industry
Employment	2,263,800	246,400
Employment Share	N/A	14.6%
Unemployment	200,800	14,900
Unemployment rate	8.1%	5.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2016
Note: Note: N/A denotes not-applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] website or Statistics Canada[3].

2. Industry's Growth

- The Retail Trade industry accounted for 14.6% of total employment in Alberta in 2016.
- Employment in this industry expected to grow at an average rate of 0.8% from 2016 to 2019[4].
- The industry is expected to account for 10.0% of total employment in Alberta in 2017.

For more information, see the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website for descriptions of industries.

[2] **See** http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html
[3] **See** http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] **Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2015 – 2019, Industry Employment Outlook**
[5] **See** http://www.alis.alberta.ca

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent data from Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Retail Trade industry accounted for approximately 4.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2015, up from 3.6% in 2005. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 11.4% in 2006 to 10.9% in 2016.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2016 was 6.9% higher than its level in 2015. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 28,200 from 2006, a 12.9% increase. There were 246,400 employed in the industry in 2016, of whom 65.9% were full time and 34.1% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Trade*
Median Retirement Age (years)	63.3	64.7
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	36.2	33.4
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	5.9%	5.2%
Average Job Tenure (months)	90.2	76.4
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	20.8%	9.1%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	17.1%	12.8%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2016, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

*Both Wholesale and Retail Trade are included.

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders by total employment. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Trade	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	673,000	35.6%	114,600	41.2%
20 to 99 employees	671,400	35.5%	115,500	40.1%
100 to 500 employees	346,900	18.3%	56,300	17.0 %
More than 500 employees	199,800	11%	5,700	2.0%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2016

* Both Wholesale and Retail Trade are included.

** Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the combined industry, except by coincidence.

SECTION B
HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE

1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Retail Trade industry include:

- cashier;
- direct distributor;
- optician;
- pharmacist; and
- retail store manager.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Retail Trade industry in 2016 was as follows:

- women employed: 136,900 people, or 55.6%
- men employed: 109,500 people, or 44.4%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.5% and men made up 54.5% of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

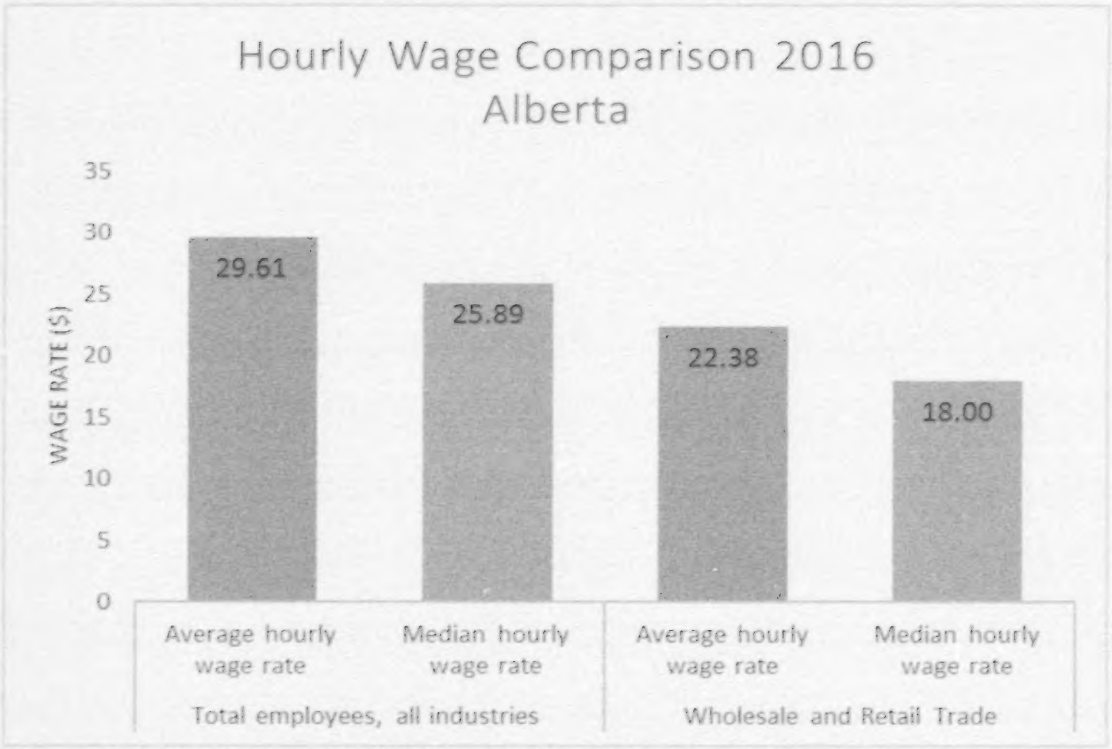
Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Retail Trade	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	303,200	13.4%	69,600	28.2%
25-54 years	1,536,000	67.9%	131,200	53.2%
55 years and over	424,600	18.8%	45,700	18.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2016

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages and Salaries

Chart 1



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2016

* The hourly wages for the industry are for Trade (wholesale and Retail combined).

Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 5

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Pharmacist	$ 44.70	$ 49.92	$ 55.88	$ 96,397
Retail trade manager	$ 22.16	$ 29.01	$ 36.23	$ 59,940
Retail salesperson and sales clerk	$ 11.95	$ 15.50	$ 21.78	$ 23,578

Data Source: 2015 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2015 Alberta Wage and salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Retail Trade industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] **See** http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] **See** http://www.alis.alberta.ca

SECTION C
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links to Industry Associations

- Retail Council of Canada
  (http://www.retailcouncil.org)
- Motor Dealers' Association of Alberta
  (http://www.mdaalberta.com)
- Alberta Pharmacists' Association
  (http://www.rxa.ca)
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business
  (http://www.cfib.ca)

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2016 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html (see Labour Market Information)
In Edmonton: 780.422.4266
Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

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